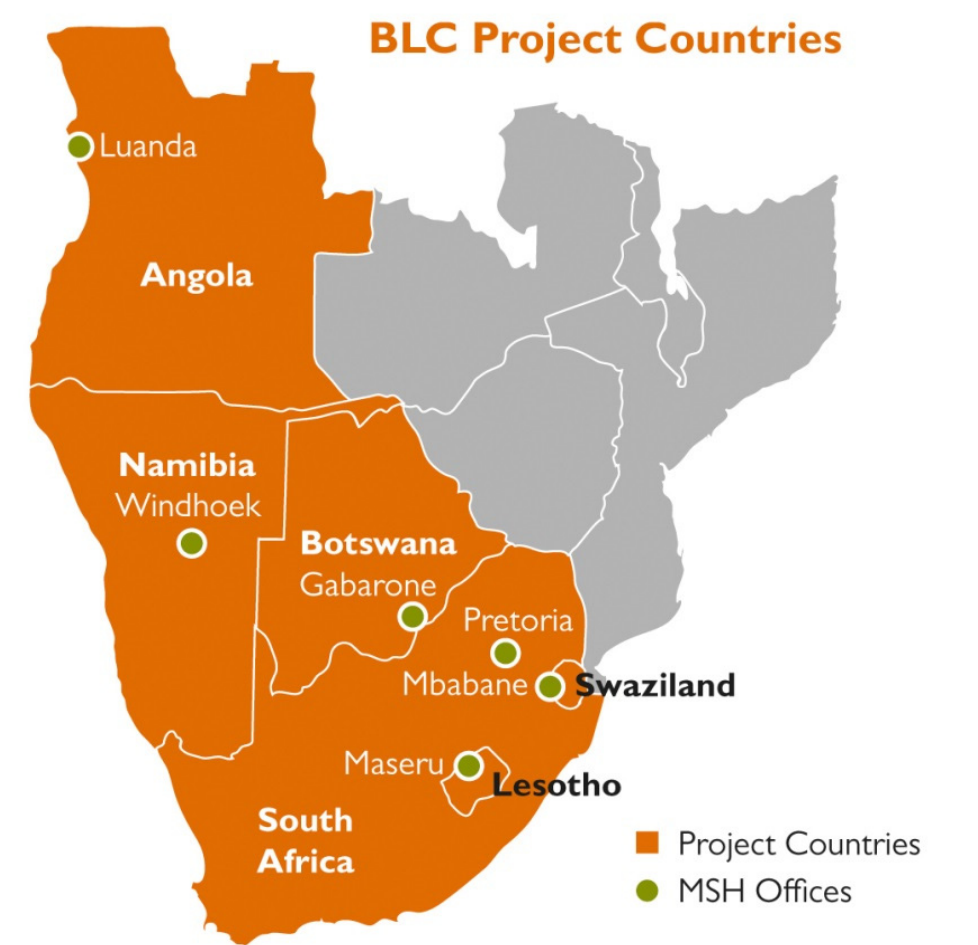




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Improving metrics to assess capacity improvements of CSOs providing HIV & AIDS services



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Capacity development - so what?

Capacity development with civil society organizations (CSOs) providing HIV services has become an area of high donor investment to ensure cost-effectiveness and maximize the quality of services. However, a gap remains in measuring if the time and funds invested in capacity development yield any significant results.

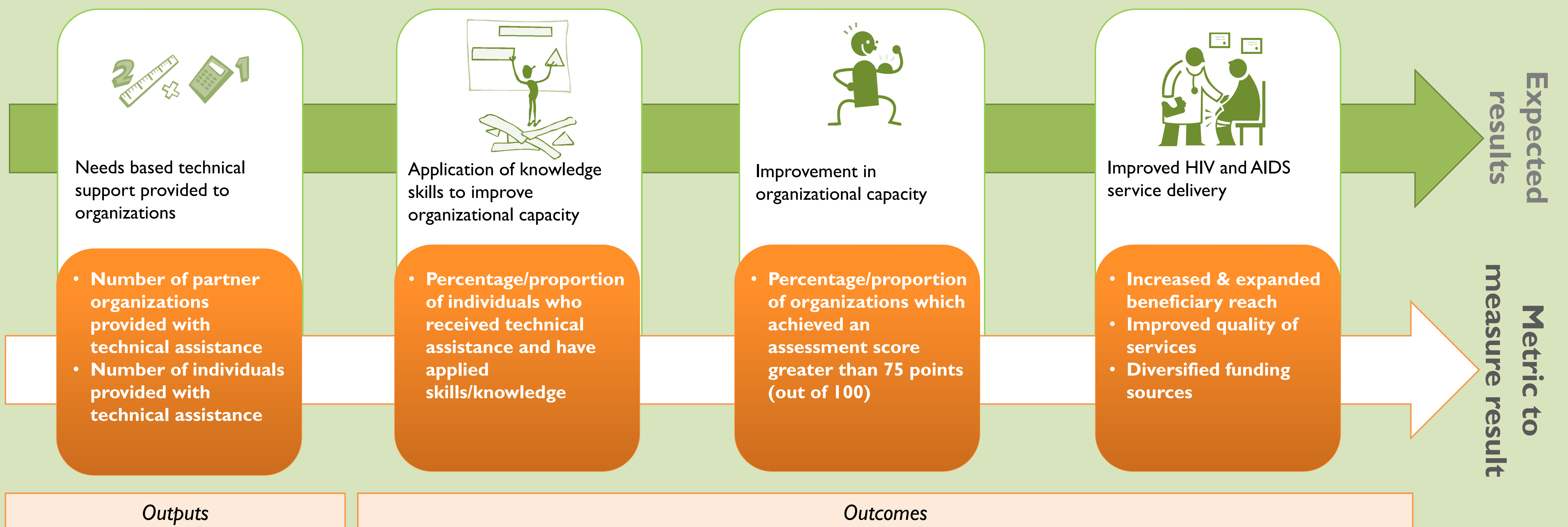
The USAID-funded Building Local Capacity for Delivery of HIV Services in Southern Africa Project (BLC), which provides support to local and regional CSOs, has combined a variety of approaches to improve the metrics of its capacity development initiatives.

What the metrics show

- **Capacity improvement of up to 32 points (n=15)** based on the application of BLC's Organizational Capacity Assessment before and after support
- A correlation between capacity improvement and the **duration of BLC technical assistance** (r=0.45, n=15)
- Variable **increases in beneficiary reach**
- Multiple **resource mobilization successes**

Six organizations reported substantial improvements in resource mobilization, accessing new funds from a pool of 16 separate donors.

Approach to measuring success of CSO capacity building initiatives



BLC uses a range of M&E tools and strategies to assess & strengthen the capacity of CSOs

- Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool
- Knowledge and skills application tool
- Quarterly monitoring of beneficiary reach and quality of services
- Quarterly M&E mentorship and data quality assurance tool
- Periodic review of organizations' growth and viability

BLC's practical approach

BLC presents a practical approach to assess grant output, organizational outcomes, and results. By expanding focus from a monitoring mindset to evaluative thinking, organizations providing and receiving capacity building can better answer the 'so what' question of these interventions and articulate evidence-based results.



Access *My M&E Primer* for a step-by-step introductory guide to improve organizational M&E skills at: www.hivsharespace.net/m-and-e-primer